



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A refractory metal core for maintaining a core in a desired position with respect to a wax die and avoiding core shift during casting comprising:

a core element formed from a refractory metal material;

said core element having a planar central portion and at least one integrally formed spring tab ~~to provide means~~ for providing spring loading when closed in said wax die for creating a spring-like effect for positioning the core element in the wax die and maintaining the position of the core during shelling.

12. (currently amended) A refractory metal core according to claim 11, wherein said ~~core has~~ spring tab means includes a plurality of spaced apart spring tabs.

13. (original) A refractory metal core according to claim 11, wherein said core element is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, tantalum, niobium, tungsten, alloys thereof, and intermetallic compounds thereof.

14. (currently amended) A refractory metal core for maintaining a core in a desired position with respect to a wax die and avoiding core shift during casting comprising:

core element means for maintaining said core in said desired position with respect to said wax die, said core element means comprising a core element formed from a refractory metal material; and

said core element having means for engaging said core at a first end, a planar central portion, and a second end attached to said planar central portion, said second end being positioned at an angle to said planar central portion and having means for engaging a slot in said wax die.

15. (currently amended) A refractory metal core according to claim 14, wherein the angle between the second end and the planar central portion is such that said second end abuts a wall of said slot in said wax die.

16. (original) A refractory metal core according to claim 14, wherein said second end includes means for mechanically locking the refractory metal core to a shell.

17. (original) A refractory metal core according to claim 16, wherein said mechanical locking means comprises at least one tab having at least one hole.

18. (original) A refractory metal core according to claim 14, wherein said core element is formed from a material selected

from the group consisting of molybdenum, tantalum, niobium, tungsten, alloys thereof, and intermetallic compounds thereof.

19. (new) A refractory metal core according to claim 11, further comprising said core element having means for engaging said core at a first end and means for abutting said wax die at a second end.

20. (new) A refractory metal core according to claim 19, wherein said first end is connected to said planar central portion by a right angle portion.

21. (new) A refractory metal core according to claim 19, wherein said second end is attached to said planar central portion and is at an angle with respect to said planar central portion.

22. (new) A refractory metal core according to claim 11, wherein said spring tab means comprises at least one spring tab having a tapered end.

23. (new) A refractory metal core according to claim 11, wherein said spring tab means comprises at least one spring tab having a non-tapered end.

24. (new) A refractory metal core according to claim 14, further comprising a right angle portion connecting said first end to said central portion.